

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HUNTINGDON, TENNESSEE

ESTABLISHED 1841



BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 14, 2024

PRAYER OF MEDITATION BEFORE WORSHIP



God who watches over us, offering us light and hope. Be with us this day as we hear the story of Jesus' baptism. Help us to remember your healing, cleansing, and claiming love for us. Remind us again of the many ways in which you reach out to us. May the image of the waters be for us an image of hope. Bring us closer to you, loving God. Embrace us again with your love. We open our hearts to you this day. AMEN.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY



PRELUDE

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD



CALL TO WORSHIP

One: From the waters of Creation, the earth sprang forth.

Many: From the waters of a womb, God's blessed Son was given to us.

One: From the waters of a river, people were baptized and marked as God's Children.

Many: Praise be to God, whose loving gifts and presence have called us together.

One: Let us shout our love to God for God's abundant love.

Many: AMEN.

*THE HYMN — 611— *“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, you have blessed us with life. We praise you for this blessing. What we have done with our lives has both delighted and perplexed you. We are far too often inclined to be stubborn and arrogant, believing that we are all powerful, that we have no need for you. But there is an emptiness in us - a place where we are raw and hurting, bleeding, and bruised. We have tried our own healing methods, and they have not worked. We feel as though we are an oar-less, sail-less boat drifting in water, unable to gain direction, unable to see the shore. We long for home and hope. From across the waters, you have called us. Now let us come to you in contrition, seeking your healing and forgiving love. God of mercy and love, you have called us over the waters, and through the waters of baptism you have blessed us. You have cleansed and healed us, and adopted us as your beloved children. Help us to live as children of the light, serving you faithfully all our days. AMEN.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Responsive)

Pastor: The love of God is always offered to us, freely, joyfully, for all eternity. Rejoice, dear friends, this is the Good News of our Lord.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen!

*GLORIA PATRI—Presbyterian Hymnal #581

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The grace and peace of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with each of you.

People: And also with you.

THE WORD



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON — Genesis 1:1-5 (OT p. 1)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

*THE HYMN— 829 — *“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”*

NEW TESTAMENT READING — Acts 19:1-7 (NT p. 139)

Pastor: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL LESSON— Mark 1:4-11 (NT pp. 34-35)

Pastor: The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of the Lord endures forever. This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON.....Dr. James T. Harris

“By Water and The Spirit”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostles’ Creed)

**I BELIEVE in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand**

**of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

I BELIEVE in the Holy Ghost;

the holy catholic church;

the communion of saints;

the resurrection of the body;

and the life everlasting.

Amen.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

THE BRINGING OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY — Presbyterian Hymnal #606

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors,

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.**

Amen.

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH



**THE HYMN — 442— *“Just as I Am”*

*TAKING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*Denotes congregation to rise in body or spirit

Liturgy written by Dr. James T. Harris



ANNOUNCEMENTS



WELCOME to First Presbyterian Church, a welcoming and caring community of all kinds of people, who believe that we are all God's children. With joyful hearts and open arms, we welcome everyone to our church. We strive to share the Good News of God's love through ministries of care and compassion, working for justice and peace, both in our community, and around the world.

† Service for the Renewal of the Baptismal Covenant will be on Wednesday, January 17th, at 6pm.

† The Church Session meets on Thursday, January 18th, in the Fellowship Hall.

† Celebration of Life Service for Gene Pinner, next Sunday, January 21st, at 2pm.

† The Shepherd's Table will be serving meals on Tuesday, January 23rd, from 5pm-7pm.

† Installation of church officers for the Class of 2026 will be Sunday, January 28th.

† Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, January 28th, with The Rev. Courtney Bowen, presiding.

NOTES ABOUT OUR WORSHIP SERVICE



- First Presbyterian Church is a congregation of The Presbytery of the Mid-South, Synod of Living Waters of the Presbyterian Church (USA).
- This morning's worship liturgy was written by Dr. James T. Harris, Pastor of Huntingdon's First Presbyterian Church, USA.
- Reformed worship is centered around the Word, both the Word of scripture and Christ as the Word incarnate. In worship, we gather around the Word, engage with the Word, and respond to the Word.
- An asterisk (*) denotes standing — in body or spirit.
- **Bold text** means the congregation is invited to speak aloud together.
- Confession is our chance to be honest with God, so that our relationship may be repaired and our hearts reconciled. Our prayer is always prefaced and followed by reminders of God's grace, allowing us to share with confidence what needs to be named before God and one another.
- Stewardship is an essential part of Christian life. How we spend and share our money and talents is directed by our Christian values.
- Our worship does not end with the postlude, but continues out into the world, where we are sent to love and care for God's people.

First Presbyterian Church is a caring community of all kinds of people, who believe that we are all God's children. With joyful hearts and open arms, we WELCOME everyone to our church!

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

January Birthdays: January 6th, Chuck Riggs; January 15th, Richard Range; January 17th, Becky Burkhalter; January 17th, Kirt Parker; January 26th, Ray Hollis.

January Anniversary: January 28th, David & Linda Bales.



DR. JAMES T. HARRIS, PASTOR